



For **IMMEDIATE**

Release:

Contact: **Bill Cobb**

BMW of North America Motorsport Press Officer  
215-431-7223 (cell) / [billcobbcommunications@yahoo.com](mailto:billcobbcommunications@yahoo.com)

**Oleg Satanovsky**

BMW of North America Product and Technology Spokesperson  
201-414-8694 (cell) / [oleg.satanovsky@bmwna.com](mailto:oleg.satanovsky@bmwna.com)

**Thomas Plucinsky**

BMW of North America Motorsport Communications  
201-406-4801 (cell) / [thomas.plucinsky@bmwna.com](mailto:thomas.plucinsky@bmwna.com)

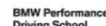
**Kathi Lauterbach**

Rahal Letterman Lanigan, VP of Communications  
317-297-8064 (office) / 317-447-4337 (cell) / [klauterbach@rahal.com](mailto:klauterbach@rahal.com)

**BMW Team RLL Finishes Fifth and Eighth at Road America; Blomqvist/De  
Phillippi - P5, Edwards/Krohn - P8 Turner Motorsport M6 GT3 Finishes Third  
in GT Daytona Class.**

**Woodcliff Lake, N.J. – August 4, 2019...** BMW Team RLL salvaged a top-five finish in today's IMSA WeatherTech Championship Road Race Showcase, at Road America, in Elkhart Lake, Wis., with the No. 25 BMW M8 GTE of Tom Blomqvist and Connor De Phillippi, after a very difficult day. After leading a handful of laps, John Edwards and Jesse Krohn finished eighth in the No. 24 BMW M8 GTE following brake failure mid-race. The car completed the two-hour-and-forty-minute race, but after repairs cost four laps, a deserving result was impossible.

Starting from the rear of the GTLM field, after failing post-qualifying technical inspections, BMW Team RLL knew today would be an uphill battle. Both BMW M8's were called to the pits from their fifth and sixth place positions on lap 18 just before



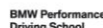
forty minutes were completed with Blomqvist staying in the No. 25 M8 and Edwards replacing Krohn in the No. 24 machine. Blomqvist returned to the race in the fifth spot. Edwards circulated in seventh. As the race passed the one hour mark and the balance of the GTLM teams made their first pit stops, Blomqvist moved into second with Edwards two positions behind in fourth. Lap 30 saw Blomqvist back in the pits for an unscheduled stop as the team anticipated a possible caution period. The crew reacted quickly to top up the No. 25 M8 GTE with fuel and install new Michelin tires. Edwards continued to drive a strong stint and took over the lead of the race on lap 35.

The midpoint of the race saw Edwards and the No. 24 M8 leading with the No. 67 Ford GT and No. 4 Corvette giving chase, both less than one second behind. Blomqvist raced in the sixth spot. Struggling with grip as the stint was ending, Edwards fell to sixth place. He pitted on lap 47, but returned only one lap later suffering from a brake issue - the issue being he was without brakes. Four laps later he returned to the race, the sister car making its final stop on lap 52 for De Phillippi to finish the race. With the No. 24 effectively out of the race, De Phillippi drove a strong last stint to finish fifth and remain as the top BMW driver in GTLM points standings.

The next round of the 2019 IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship will be held on Aug. 25 at Virginia International Raceway, in Alton, Va. The two-hour-and-forty-minute Michelin GT Challenge at VIR will take the green flag at 1:35 p.m. ET and is scheduled to be broadcast on NBCSN from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. ET.

**Tom Blomqvist, driver No. 25 BMW M8 GTE (P5):** “Very disappointing result because we had a quick car this weekend. We need to get on top of the issues and resolve them. The drivers and the crew are all giving it their best so it’s not for a lack of effort. We are just not getting the results so we need to look at ourselves and find out why.”

**Connor DePhillippi, driver No. 25 BMW M8 GTE (P5):** “We would have liked to hold onto fourth at the end and stay ahead of the Corvette for points but it was not our cleanest race or performance today. We really need to do a better job for these next couple of events. We have a good car, we just need to put the pieces of the puzzle together to execute and get onto the podium.”



**John Edwards, driver No. 24 BMW M8 GTE (P8):** “It was unfortunate that we were sidelined by some mechanical issues. We were set up for a good finish and our pit strategy helped us get ahead of several cars. We were hoping to come away with a good result but it was not to be.”

**Jesse Krohn, driver No. 24 BMW M8 GTE (P8):** “Today was obviously a difficult day. We need to investigate what went wrong. We had a great car but had some issues which made it difficult to keep pace. We need to see what happened and fix what needs to be fixed so we can move forward.”

## **BMW Customer Racing Teams -**

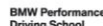
### **Turner Motorsport Finishes a Strong Third at Road America.**

Bill Auberlen and Robby Foley raced the No. 96 BMW M6 GT3 to a third place finish in the GT Daytona class today, the duo racing in a top-five position for the entire two-hour-and-forty-minute contest. A fourth consecutive podium finish keeps the Turner Motorsport drivers securely second in the driver points standings.

“When we realized that we did not have the fastest car coming in here, we asked ourselves what our strategy would be.” said **Will Turner, Team Principal**. “We would not take any big risks and stick to textbook racing to improve our odds for a good finish. We actually did had a top five car as far as speed goes. The strength of Robey Foley’s first stint, followed by awesome Bill Auberlen, Don Salama’s strategy and the whole crew making some very precise pit stops got us on the podium today.”

**Bill Auberlen, driver No. 96 BMW M6 GT3 (P3):** “It was a never quit attitude. I tell you what, I have had a positive attitude all weekend like we are going to wind up on the podium. The deal was about points, points, points and beating the cars ahead of us. The car was the absolute best today. I owe it to our guys, the Turner crew, everyone touching this car made the car amazing for this race.”

**Robby Foley, driver No. 96 BMW M6 GT3 (P3):** “We did not expect to have much pace today but we did. We got a good start and settled in. We put Bill in for the last two



stints and he was able to get around the Lexus at the end. Awesome job to everyone on the team on four podiums in a row, we will take that. Now onto the next event and we will continue to work our way to the teams ahead of us.”

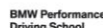
### **BMW M4 GT4 Drivers Have a Mixed Day at Road America.**

Three BMW Customer Racing teams participated in Saturday’s two-hour IMSA MICHELIN Pilot Challenge Road America 120 race at Road America, in Elkhart Lake, Wis. James Clay (US) and Devin Jones (US) were the top-finishing BMW drivers, finishing ninth in the No. 82 BimmerWorld Racing BMW M4 GT4. Clay and Jones remain second in Grand Sport driver points standings. Greg Liefoghe (US) and Henry Schmitt (US) drove the No. 88 Stephen Cameron Racing BMW M4 GT4 to a 11th place finish. Ari Balogh (US) and Seth Thomas (US) finished 20th in the No. 80 BimmerWorld Racing BMW M4 GT4.

Round 8 of the 2019 IMSA MICHELIN Pilot Challenge, the Race VIR 120, will take place on Saturday, August 24th at Virginia International Raceway, in Alton, Virginia.

### **BMW Group In America**

BMW of North America, LLC has been present in the United States since 1975. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars NA, LLC began distributing vehicles in 2003. The BMW Group in the United States has grown to include marketing, sales, and financial service organizations for the BMW brand of motor vehicles, including motorcycles, the MINI brand, and Rolls-Royce Motor Cars; Designworks, a strategic design consultancy based in California; technology offices in Silicon Valley and Chicago, and various other operations throughout the country. BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC in South Carolina is the BMW Group global center of competence for BMW X models and manufactures the X3, X4, X5, X6 and X7 Sports Activity Vehicles. The BMW Group sales organization is represented in the U.S. through networks of 348 BMW passenger car and BMW Sports Activity Vehicle centers, 148 BMW motorcycle retailers, 123 MINI passenger car dealers, and 38 Rolls-Royce Motor Car dealers. BMW (US) Holding Corp., the BMW Group’s sales headquarters for North America, is located in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey.



## Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing

BMW's partner, Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing, based in Hilliard, Ohio and co-owned by three-time IndyCar Champion and 1986 Indianapolis 500 winner Bobby Rahal, former CBS Late Show host David Letterman and Mi-Jack co-owner Mike Lanigan, has been competing for almost three decades. Prior to the start of their 27<sup>th</sup> season of competition in 2018, the team had compiled 42 victories, 53 poles, 162 podium finishes, three series championships (1992, 2010, 2011) and claimed an Indianapolis 500 victory (Buddy Rice in 2004). In 2009 the team joined BMW of North America to campaign the new BMW M3 in the American Le Mans Series. The following year the team won both the Manufacturer and Team Championships in the GT category and swept all three GT titles - Manufacturer, Team and Driver – in 2011. In 2012, the team finished second in the Team Championship and third in the Manufacturer Championship and in 2013, the team finished second in the Driver, Team and Manufacturer Championship. Since 2014, BMW Team RLL has competed in the GTLM class of the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship with a two car program and has brought their total to 17 wins, 23 poles and 68 podium finishes as well as a second place finish in the Manufacturer, Team and Driver championships in 2015 and 2017.

# # #

**Journalist note:** Information about BMW Group and its products in the USA is available to journalists on-line at [www.bmwgroupusanews.com](http://www.bmwgroupusanews.com) and [www.press.bmwna.com](http://www.press.bmwna.com).

# # #



BMW M PERFORMANCE PARTS

BMW Performance Driving School

Motorsport